

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Finance and Administration Portfolio

Department of Human Services and agencies

Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 14 February 2006

Question: HS55

Outcome 1, Output 1

Topic: DHS Core – Smartcard program

Hansard Page/Written Question on Notice: Written

SENATOR EVANS asked on 14/2/2006:

1. According to current plans and projections, by what year will the Smartcard program be a) fully operational and b) properly utilised by doctors and patients?
2. Please provide the content of the plan to conduct a study into privacy issues related to the development and introduction of the Smartcard program?
3. Will the study into privacy issues related to the development and introduction of the Smartcard program be part conducted by community, academic and NGO stakeholders?

Answer:

1. Until such time as the government agrees to introduce a smart card, plans and projections regarding when a card could be fully operational and utilised are not available.
2. The Smart technologies and services task force has undertaken the development of an initial Privacy Impact Assessment with input from external agencies and the Privacy Commissioner, to accompany a business case regarding the introduction of smart card technology for accessing health and social services.
3. The initial Privacy Impact Assessment was prepared by Clayton Utz, with advice from Mr Nigel Waters a former Deputy Federal Privacy Commissioner. Both Clayton Utz and Mr Waters are experienced in this field.

This answer required 1 hour at a cost of \$50 to prepare.